

pr: 3.

THE LIFE,
APPREHENSIO
Arraignement, and Execution of CHAR
COVRTNEY, alias *Hollice*, alias *Worsley*, and
Clement Slie Fencer : with their Escapes and
Breaking of Prison :

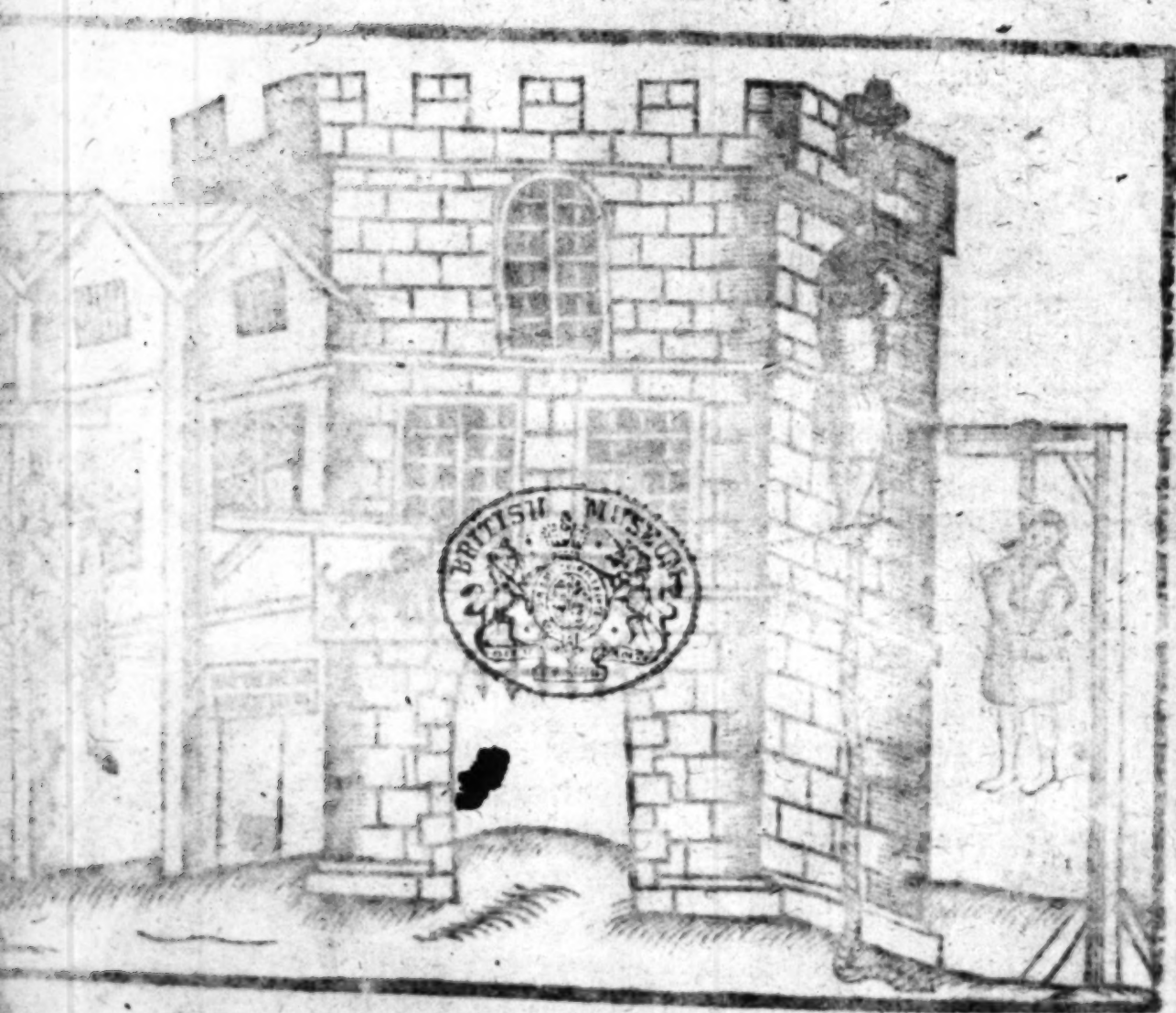
As also
the true and hearty Repentance of *Charles Courtney* w
other passages, worthy the note and Reading.



LONDON

Printed for *Edward Marchant*, and are to bee sold in *Pauls*
Churceyard ouer against the *Crosse*. 1612.

THE LIFE,
 APPRENTICE,
 Arrangement, and Execution of CHA-
 COURTNEY, alias Hobbs, alias Woffey, an
 famous Thief, with their History and
 Breaking off them:
 or
 the true and hearty Repentance of Charles Courtney
 after his escape, worthy, he says, to be read.



LONDON

Printed for Edward Moxham, and are to be sold
 at the Coffee-house, in the Strand.



THE APPREHEN-
SION AND ARRAIGNMENT
of CHARLES COVRTNEY, alias
*Hallise, gentleman, with the
forme of his Life.*



E, that as in a glasse, will be-
hold the picture of a wretched
Life, or the lively representati-
on of the myseries incident to
Mankind, the image of both
may be seene in this man: here
may be discerned, the mutati-
ons of Fortunes, the inconsan-
cie of thinges, and the vncertaintie of daies, since sinne
hath spred it selfe like a leprosie ouer all flesh, and ini-
quitie hath so gotten the vpper hand, that a spider
is able to choake vs, a haire to stille vs, and a fyle sal-
ling on our heads to extingwische vs, even in that momēt,
when we least suspect so suddaine a calamitie.

Our life then so momentanie, that in that minute
we breathe (if not defended by our Maker) in that mi-
nute we are breathlesse. Why should any flesh, endow-
ed with that heauenly reason, which God hath onely
giuen to men and Angels, so forget his vncertaintie:
as for a little gold, which is but the dregges of the
earth, for vanitie, the pleasures of the world, or for the
world it selfe; possesse with an exterior appearance of
goodnesse, and within lined with loathsome corruption,
which is but like to reeds, who when they shoot out
floure,

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first, in the spring of the yeare, intice, and with their fresh Greene colour, delight the eye for a while; but if we bryake, and looke within them, we find nothing but emptinesse and hollownesse) neglect his Maker, and the dignity of his creation, who being ordained for vertuous dispositions, conducts his whole life to vicious actions; being men but in shew, and like birds in their course, who greedily flee to pecke up corne, till they be caught in the ginne: or like fishes, who earnestly swimme to catch the baite, till they be choaked with the hooke.

But why doe I talke of the frensie of others, when no mans madnesse hath bene equall to mine: or who will receiue a homely counsel from that tongue, whose folly hath brought him to be condemned himselfe:

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

Then let me forget the world, pittie her infirmities, and with my soules sorrow, and heartie repentance, build me vp a ladder, on the steppes of whose petitions I might climbe toward heauen. Yet alas words bittered from mee, are but like birds feathers, who serue their bodies vnto flye withall, whilst they are aliuie, and others regardlesse lie downe vpon them, when they are dead. The repetition of my sinnes, is but with the winnowe and the wind, to fanne away the chaffe, and leaue the growth of the graine to liue: with my shame, I may say, I haue sinned, and doe sing I repent, yet the Law must haue his power, and the liuing giue their verdict: my griefe is the spring, which my sorrow lets out, and Justice is the pipe, which doth take, and can stoppe, whilst the world, as a sponge that suckes up the superfluous, is of power to be squeezed forth, as the multitude please: what though I sigh, yet my sinnes must be stricke, the Law requires it, and mine iniquities haue deserued it: what though I bring complaine, the liuing must haue their willes, and they haue willes can reprove whatsoeuer I say (then since the Law, as
from

For y^e fountaine of my offences, hath had power to draine
my life from me, and the world, even after death: may
have strength to condemne me; words bedewed with
teares, but requests of them thus: That since my body
shall have power to blunt the edge of affliction, my un-
timely fall may have force to abate the keene sharpnes
of their rumouring tongues; and if any thirstie or insa-
tisfied spleen, either reioycing at my death, or bemoaning
my ruine, shall desire to see unraveled the whole web
of my life, he shall here behold the piece of my Travels:
In reading which, I desire him to wash from his memo-
rie the stains of my name: here shall he reade my diu-
mall transgressions, which I request him to pardon, and
not to reproue (since no Curie is so cruell to bite the
dead:) here as in a Mirror, shall hee looke into my mis-
eries, hard woorkes, my sinnes, my sorrow, my life, my
death, and the building of mine otiose labour, began
from the time of my apprehension at Donstable in Bed-
fordshire, from whence I was conuaid to Bedford
Gaole, from thence to Newgate; where, after my several
escapes, it was most untimely concluded at Warwicke
lane end, here Newgate to die. For my birth and edu-
cation, it was fortunate, and commendable. It was a
credit to my carefull and loving Father, and he was o-
beyed by me, as a dutifull sonne. In my youth I grew
up like a straight plant, and was expected of the wor-
thiest, and hoped for of the best of my countrey, to have
proued the Timber of a fruitful tree: my company to
the best of the Gentry was accounted so welcome, that
they esteemed me more for pleasure, then expenses; and
the contempt I held to associate with the base, had
brought my faire demeanure to bee belov'd with the
best, that my fellowship entirely desired, and my condi-
tion held honest, my Father was proud to call me his
happy sonne. In my prime, and sitting yeares, my Fa-
ther endeavoured to ioyne me in marriage, as well to
joy in the posteritie of his sonne, as a talke by bringing a

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belov'd with her, should strengthen my estate; which desire of his, was equalled by others Gentlemen of good toozship in our Countrey: and to mine owne love and liking, with the joy and wishes of our Parents, I was ioyned in wedlocke with a vertuous Gentlewoman; with whom, during the lines of our Fathers, whose eyes were like carefull sentinels, watchfull of our safeties, I lived decently and orderly, as did befit a sonne, and a husband, and she loving and dutifull, as should a daughter and a wife. But Time, the parent of Death, and finisher of all things, calling them our floures to their graves, and I entered the gappe of wilfulnesse, and libertie; the which, befoze either their grave discretions had rained mee from, or I had not leisure to find out: I grewe now to be a worse man, and did not seeme in any thing, like that which befoze I had bene: my civilltie was turned to disorder, my temperance to drunkennesse, my thrift to ryot, my honestie to misbehaviour, and my whole life to those unseemely acts, that I should blush to record.

In which tide of expences, consuming my meanes reserved by my Parents to defend my reputation, and uphold our house, want, the Enemy to superfluities, Taverns, Dyce, and whores came on like a greedy pursuant to arrest me, with whose gripe I being caught, and finding my state so infeebled, that I could not continue in the course I had begun: my undertakings grew desperate, fearelesse to attempt, and carelesse of the headlong danger that could ensue. Whereby I was resolved, not fearing the law, and to persist I grew bolde, not regarding my ruine. To reckon up what all the robberies I have done, were but to adde griefe to a number, that should beare of the account, and little benefit to me, that am going to my grave. As many they are, which particularly to expresse would beget doubt to the Readers beleefe, yet thus much Reader for thy satisfaction, I have bene

beene too prosperous in these Aduentures, so that I neuer failed in any purchase I went about, I neuer stood vpon the way to watch for any passengers, nor neuer undertooke any Robberie, but what was appointed and certaine notice giuen vs which way they would passe, and what sorte of Coyne they carried, by some who were trusted, more then mistrusted. I neuer tooke from the needy, or those whose pouertie might cause them to complaine, but all my aime either at house or highway, were at such Curmignons, who care not who starues so themselves bee Coynesed.

In the effecting of all my Robberies and Burglarries, neuer (to my soules Comfort) did I shed any blood, but still my care was how to preuent that stayne to my soule, onely it was my ill fate to stumble vpon one Robberie, for which I heartily wish I had beene taken and receiued the law, according to my deserts, I had then preuented the vntimely end of two worthy gentlemen, whose names I forbear. For the reputation of their house that were apprehended, embited, arraigned, condemned, indged and most innocently hanged for a Robbery which I did, Oh that my cradle had bene my graue, I had not then offended my maker. For the blood of the Innocents, for which I doe sit most earnestly on the knees of my heart begge forgiveness of the Lord, hoping through my vnsained and hartie repentance to obtaine remission of that grieuous sin, next of those stiffs, which were by me made friendlesse of two hopesfull gentlemen, which in time might haue prooued fruitfull vines to defend their posteritie, yet thus much Reader for thy satisfaction, these gentlemen were apprehended, indged and dead ere I knew of it, for I protest (as I thinke) had I known thereof before their execution, I should haue peeled my owne life, and haue thought it chiefe meanes to obtaine remission of God, for my manifold transgressions to save the Innocents. This warning
 peere

peace should haue Chastised me, soeuer vndertaking the like Enterprise.

My Conscience for the time was greened, complayned on it, yet my wilfulnesse regarded it not, but like a Dog, Redire ad vomitum, I was still the same and persisted. Insomuch, that my conscience being Clogged with the blood of Innocents, I retired my selfe for reliefe in London.

In which Denne of acquaintance, I met with many, who had bene my Consorts, with whom we Keueled, while we had money, dancke while we had Credit, whozed whilst we had health, regardles of any good wee applied our selues to all villanies whatsoeuer, but these being weake sinewes to maintaine strength without supplie, and none of vs all having meanes to relieue himselve, in the worst of our Credit, we began to Consult, our Resolue was thus, he that is bozne must be kept, we are bozne and therefore must be kept, & will find Purles in the world though to other mens charge. Briefly we stood not long vpon it, but our Conference was, how we might come by a Purse on the highway, that was woorth the taking, or enter some house that might benefit the breaking. Every man gaue his Resolue, some that the highway was the best, hauing Outlers ready to furnish them with horses, and euerie Countrie in the whole Kingdome for their free escape. Others knowing me a better theefe then the rest, swoze they would be ruled by me, and desired me to set downe some Course what should be done, I neuer paused on it, but finding them all fit fry for the gallowses as my selfe was, I desired to bee heard, and told them this, that there was a Gardner in the towne that sowed seede, and gathered the Crophe for himselfe. A man, an vsurer, one that would take much in paune, and lend little on it. One that would keepe a house of great vse, yet haue no hospitalitie in it, neere about Temple Barre was this Gardners Orchard: One whose

whose fruit we must plucke for our profit, the course was like, the Plot approued, and my selfe best knowing the conueyance of the house, hauing oftentimes resorted thither, when my Pockets were Lancke, both to pleasure my selfe, and other of my friends with a good Pledge, I must be the man must bring the matter to Act.

Two severall times we had undertooke this Enterprize, and were as often prevented, intending to breake into the house, but finding the house too strong for our weake purposes, hopeles to effect, we were about to giue it ouer, till on the sudden, it came in my minde that this Gardner, was so ielous of his substance, and so distrustfull of euery one (nay euen of his wife) her selfe, that he would neuer goe abroad, but he would take his key of his doore with him, reseruing to himselfe certaine houres in the day, when he would not faile to be at home, to meete with his customers, and to furnish them with money. So that some Certaine meanes must be found out for the getting of his key, or all our Labour was lost, and we had undertake a bootles attempt. In briefe I hauing by this time so insinuated my selfe into his loue by faire words, and as faire behaviour, that no man was more welcomer to his house then my selfe, neither could any draw him forth sooner then I: Will baiting the hooke of my plot, with bestowing euery morning a pinte of wine or two on him, as they ble to say, for his first draught, but neuer suffering him to spend a Denie, as we sate bibling together oftentimes, thus hand to hand turning ouer the Cuppes, with no other Complement then this, here father Gardner, heeres to you, and sonne Courtney to you. I warrant you an oath drew not out of my mouth for the world, and Circumstance was seldome of any thing else but of thist, and thist, saying, how we might get wealth and hoope it by, being got, I knew now that buttermilke would serue in summer both for meat and drinke, as well as himselfe, that

that a good sayer might stand Cheeke by Jole with a great getter, and could now tell how to multiply a hundred to a thousand, with the best of them all, so that I stood in doubt at last he would make me his heire.

Our familiaritie thus linckte, and the rest of our Crue being nine or tenne in number, acquainted, therewith, it was by generall Consent agreed vpon that at some Tauerne or other, a solemne supper should be prepared, and M. Gardner and his wife invited and brought thither as my guests. I stood not much vpon the vndertaking of it, and the rather, because I knew good chere. and of free Cost, was both baitte and line, and would draw my Budgeon at ease. The time is come, supper ready, the Cloath is laid, my gallants in the roome attending for M. Gardener his wife, and my selfe, who at the houre appointed, made our appearance, when according to Course, to some that were there before, and the worthiest in shew, I must entreate of them to bid these friends welcome, who are especially mine, and what Curtesie soeuer they extended towards them, I should euer approue it manifested towards me, whereby the good woman is with all Curtesies placed at the vpper end of the Table, and a chaire with a soft Cushion, provided for the good man, every one is ready to carue vnto her, and all are as forward to quaffe vnto him.

Supper ended and the signe of the wine beganne to shew in his face, a noise of fiddlers was provided to come in, first in the Picke, and now in the Devils name, we must needs goe daunce, when in protesting of Loue, imbracing and hugging of him, one of the Crue whose fingers were nimbler then the rest, had daunced the key out of his pocket, Intelligence was straight given to me of that which was done, and by me as privately bozne to the rest with strickt warning to keepe him vp in his mirth, so by his wealth we were in hope to be euer made.

About then slippe the healthes, more Joyfull then before, whilst three of vs on the sudden ranke downe the Staires, hast to the house, open the doore, and vp into the Chambers, where we found that we came for, and stode not long a Culling out, but like craftie Merchants, taking vp our Commodities by the great, we were now onely puzzled how, and in what, to Carry it from thence. But I being my Crafts-Master puld off a featherbed, ript vp the tick, powred out the feathers, and in this Case for Conueiance, wee put as much plate and Jewels as wee could find, and conveniently carry away, Duely one bagge of monie of some thirtie pound was scattered about the Rōme, the bagge byooke. It was not farre off but for the instant we had a warehouse provided for the Harboursing of it. My Confederates all this while kept them at the tauerne, excusing mine, and the others suddaine Departure to some extraordinarie businesse which wee had to doe. When they thought we had our purpose, call for a reckoning, paid it, and so like honest, louing, familiar friends, wee quietly and peaceably departed the Tauerne.

By this, Master Gardner with his wife come home to their house, and their doore shut, there was no hurt in that, bids his wife light a candle, there was no hurt in that, but missing his key, was forced to breake the doore open: comming vp into his chamber, espying the feathers scattered all about one rōme, and money about another, the windows shut, and walles safe, (not without cause) my old friend began to wonder at that: and being suddainly affrighted, flies to his Counting-house, where, when he saw what ransacke was made, what a pittifull heat was my olde Grandfire in, let e-very one iudge.

It was no time for him to delay, Enquiry was made amongst the neighbours, what passengers they had

had seene goe into his house since his departure. suspicion was had of vs; search eery where was made for vs, Que and Crie into all places sent after vs, all ports and hauens laid for vs, our habits and personages described, warning left at all Goldsmithes and Jewellers, if any such plate came to be sold, to make stay of it: all Newgate Coniurers set a worke, with promise of great reward, if by their Art they could find any of vs out. But wee being lodged secure from present danger, began to consult what meanes might be vsed for our free escape. Some were so fearefull (as it hath bin still my happe to robbe with cowards) that they would haue giuen one legge, and their shares in the Robbery, to haue had the other legge safe in France. I knew my selfe as safe here as in France, but aiming at the full purchase, holding it no sinne to deceiue the deceiuers, perswaded them how dangerous it was to abide here, and told them that I knew the malice of Gardner to be such, nothing could satisfie him but life, or restitution: this feare infected them all, & they that before thought scoone of my company, now became sutoys to mee, to plot their escape. I conueyed them with spies to an old Sea-thiefe, an acquaintance of mine, which dwelt nere the Sea coast, that would at any time for a small gratuitie, conuey a fellow, or one in danger, out of this land; told them he must haue a great reward for his paines, and for the plate & iewels, we would share the there where he took shippe: for I made them beloeue this Sea-thiefe was still full of money, to furnish these occasions. Wee being acquainted with my purpose, perswaded them their securest harbour was on shipboard, till he could prouide me money upon these patrones. They being all shipt, one night I caused a false alarme to be sent, that they were pursued, my selfe taken, the towne laid for their apprehensions. This newes made them forget what they staied for, present-
ring:

ring their lines befoze any thing else, cried Hoist sayle, away to France: the wind being then good, away they went, and left me with my old Sea-thiefe, renelling in the towne. So all the plate and iewels which we took from Gardner, which amounted to a good round summe, of which some nine or tenne should haue shared, I shared to my selfe; onely some money they got from mee, nothing to their expectations, and some charge they put me to, in sending them away.

Now hauing conueyed them safe away, I must vse a course to protect my selfe: I knew all places where it was knowne I had any acquaintance, was laid for mee, with promise of reward to them that could apprehend mee: so that my safest refuge was where I was least knowne. In one place I would neuer abide long, but courting the countries, I happened to lodge at Dunstable, where I was taken vpon Suspition of Felonie, being knowne by my horse, was committed to Bedford Gaole: and notice of my apprehension was giuen vnto Gardner, who procured authoritie to fetch mee from Bedford to London. Whither I was safely, and with great care conueyed. And being brought to Newgate, was lodged on the Passers side: where my smooth tongue, ciuill carriage, and friendly courtesie (not onely to the worthiest and best esteemed on that side, but euen to the worst boy in the house) had gotten me such a good opinion amongst them, that I was of every one beloued, and pittied: and euery one behind my backe commended mee to the Keeper, and would often produce me for example to others. But all this was but a curtaine to shadow my villanie: for when I seemed free from thought of toying, I was most buisie to worke my escape. My life, I knewe, was sold to the Law, which at the next Sessions I was sure to pay, vlesse it were ventured by breaking out of prison. I found the Gaole to be of that approved

strength, as it was impossible to be broken: besides, being lodged in a chamber with other prisoners, I could not haue time to doe it. Yet still persisting in my Resolue, and taking hold of any occasion that might further my attempt, I did perceiue a doze which did leade out of a gentlemans chamber, that was a prisoner, into the Leades, which doze was continually lockt, this was the doze must leade me to my pardon, I let no time slippe, but by meanes of a deere friend, I had a Jacke line conueied vnto me, and a Chissell of Iron, and that night I purposed to get away, being in the Hall at supper, with the rest of the prisoners, I made excuse, to goe vp to my Chamber, to write a letter. To worke I went, where without long labour, as it seemed to me, being a cunning workeman, I had opened the doze that led into the Leades, and finding an olde doze in the gutter, on the backe of which were fastened barres to keepe close the boozes, and with the helpe thereof, I climed vp to the Battlements, where my eye measurting the way that I held best for my discent, I fastened my cord to the toppe of one Battlement, on the west side of the gate, and beganne to slide downe, but see the will of our iust God, that giues prevention to euill, for the prosperitie of honest and good men, (which I now heartily pray for) that I that had the Contriuing to open the Lockes, the Cunning how to sort out the time, should not for this which I held my aduantage, haue had the foresight to haue laid some cloath, or other helpe, betwixt the edge of the wall, wherunto I had fastened the cord, and the stay of the rope. So that in my slipping downe, striving to vntangle the cord being small, it cut my right hand to the bone, and the force of my body, with the sharpened of the stone cut in sunder the cord, by the breaking of which I fell downe into the gutter, belonging to a Linnen Draper adioyning to Newgate, lying a quarter

ter of an houre astonied, ere I recovered my selfe.

Being come to my remembrance, and seeing my hope frustrate, and no helpe for me to be gone, at last I grasped out a garret window, the doze of which opened into the gutter, but being bolted in the inside, I was as much in a maze as I was before, where presently my inuention helping me againe, and by the shaking of the doze, learnt whereabout the staple was fastened, I had in a trice with my nayles scraped out a hole, yet no bigger but where I might thrust two of my fingers, so thrusting backe the bolt, I opened the gutter dooze, having a cord about my middle, where with I ment to get out of the gutter into the streete. But the maister keeper whose diligence, and care in his well gouerning of the Prison, I must with modestie commend, having bene forth with some friends of his, and comming in againe, at the time they use to looke vp, demanded if the Gaole were safe, and all well with the Prisoners, and being answered yes, I knew not by what meanes, but sure God had a hand in it, hauing a strange impression on the sudden in his minde, came vp into the maisters floe, and the first he askt for was me, where receiving a strange answer from every one, as that he was here even now, or such like, going into every roome, still calling, still calling, Maister Courtney, Maister Courtney, but Maister Courtney could not heare. It was perfectly calient, I had wrought my escape. In what a conflict was this gentleman in, the danger I had brought him in, let even Charitie iudge. But it was no time for delay, search round about the house was made, which way I might escape, some perswaded him, I was gone out of the doze in some disguise, some that I had got out at the leades, the leades were viewed, at last they found the cord tied about the Battlements. Linkes then were sent for, the Constable and his watch beset every

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ter of an houre astonied, ere I recovered my selfe.

Being come to my remembrance, and seeing my hope frustrate, and no helpe for me to be gone, at last I groaped out a garret window, the doore of which opened into the gutter, but being bolted in the inside, I was as much in a maze as I was before, where presently my invention helping me againe, and by the shaking of the doore, learnt whereabout the staple was fastened, I had in a trice with my nayles scraped out a hole, yet no bigger but where I might thrust two of my fingers, so thrusting backe the bolt, I opened the gutter doore, having a cord about my middle, wherewith I went to get out of the gutter into the streete. But the maister keeper whose diligences, and care in his well governing of the Prison, I must with modestie commend, having beene forth with some friends of his, and comming in againe, at the time they use to locke up, demanded if the Gaole were safe, and all well with the Prisoners, and being answered yes, I knew not by what meanes, but sure God had a hand in it, having a strange impression on the sudden in his minde, came up into the maisters floe, and the first he asked for was me, where receiving a strange answer from every one, as that he was here even now, or such like, going into every roome. Still calling, still calling, Maister Courtney, Maister Courtney, but Maister Courtney could not heare. It was perfectly silent, I had wrought my escape. In what a conflict was this gentleman in, the danger I had brought him in, let even Charitie iudge. But it was no time for delay, search round about the house was made, which way I might escape, some perswaded him, I was gone out of the doore in some disguise, some that I had got out at the leades, the leades were viewed, at last they found the cord tied about the Battlements. Linkes then were sent for, the Constable and his watch beset every

euery house on that side, from Newgate to Pis Corner, the Leades were likewise beset with linckes. All this I did see though to my great griefe, into the garret then I crept, and there hid my selfe vnder a table, couered with a cloake, this Dyapers house being searcht, as the likeliest place, I should take for my refuge, till the hurry was ouer. In the garret where I lay, they came, and found me not, but God would not suffer me to escape, nor would suffer them to giue ouer their search in that house. Into the garret the Keeper came againe, with a cudgel in his hand turning vp the cloake, espied me lying as it were a sleepe waking me without blowes or signe of anger, called to me, come Paister Courtney, will you goe, when looking heauily vp, and seeing it was he, I fell downe on my knees asking him forgiveness, who most mildly without afflicting me, gaue me this answer, may neuer aske forgiveness of me, there is no hurt done Paister Courtney, for I am the gladdest to see you of any man alive.

So from thence being carried vp to the common Gaole, and sessions comming on, I was called vp to triall according to my merit. Conuict, but by the fauour of the bench, some promises of mine olone to helpe some to their goods, who had bene robbde of a number, and at the especiall sute of my friends, I was for that sessions reprieved without iudgement, the sessions following, I had my sentence of death, but in the distance betwixt my conviction and sentence, my remaine being still in the common Gaole. I had searching eyes touching the strength of the prison, the condition and humoz of the officers, and where and what hower it was fittest for me to labour my deliuerance, whose pollicie failing, I was certaine of death. In briefe I had found the way, and manner of my conuenance, and had I not bene pzenented, by my vnerpected sentence, at the following sessions after my conviction,

and

and that night according to the custome due to Con-
demned and Judged men, being lodged in a dungeon,
which is called the Limbord, that instant night, with
one Clement Slie a sencer by title, and lay condemned
for further, whome I had wrought to bee an agent
with me, I had him as forcibly as after I performed,
confirmed by escape.

Now seeing I was prevented, and knowing I must
die with the rest of the prisoners, I found now there
was no refuge left, but to labour our reprieve, which
cunningly, and not ordinarily, I thus brought to effect,
there was a gentleman, and at that time a prisoner
for debt, whom I had understood his intreats would
prevaille with some honourable personages in this land,
I commended me to him, to his conference with me,
and in this manner solicited him, that I was a gentle-
man, as himselfe was, and for lacke of meanes, and
neglect of friends, compelled to take offending courses,
the which himselfe knew the law had taken hold of,
to the marke of my life I importune him to consider of
me, yet in no kind whereby himselfe, whom I labour,
should be brought into danger, neither those whom he
should meane for mee, should receive discredit but
gaine.

For when I was condemned, for this apparent
robbery of Gardner, I desired him to be certaine, that
I had ever this care in the evill of my life, not so to o-
verthrow the state of my being, but in spite of cala-
mitie, I would alwaies some what reserve, should be
as a fence to my health, in spite of my sin, namely, that
of the same I stand convicted for, being most of it in
plate, I had at that time, as much, the which in one
moneth I would make money of, as should amount to
the summe of five hundred pounds, foure of which I
would assure to any honourable or worshipfull friends
should labour my reprieve, and effect my pardon, and
the

the other hundred pounds should be to gratifie him, that should travel in the cause (since himselfe was a prisoner) till it were fully confirmed. And if within foure daies, after my reprieve, I did not answer my word, I would willingly yeelde to my sentence of death.

This made my gentleman labour, this drew a friend of his to question with me, and was satisfied with my promise. So that the untimely morning I was expected by the gaze of the multitude to have gone to execution with the rest, I had my reprieve brought in hope of my promise, which indeede was onely coyned for another end.

The effect was this, that I being still continued in the Gaole, and night coming on, I began to argue with Slic of our former plot, whom I found to bee the man, whome I wished to be, namely, to goe forward in the attempt, which before we had enterprised, whom I finding to be confident, and resolute still, that night we made a bolw, to confirme our purpose.

It is heere to be noted, that in the same ward where we lay, namely the Waiters Chamber was also lodged one Woodward for suspect of Coyning, whom wee taking down into the cellar, amongst other prisoners, we made so absolutely drunke, that hee was forced upon mens shoulders to be carried up staires, this fellow thus drunke, and we were sure now, in a dead sleepe, in the dead of the night, we fell to worke, and prevailed so farre, that we came by through a seeling, and a planke that was broken in a roome, that is commonly called the high hall, with a rope that belongeth to draw up, and let downe the beere into the Taphouse, having bene used, then time out of minde, and dead-lette of that, by which we made use of it, we determined our escape. But being both above, and out of the roome where we lay, all the policie and activitie wee had, could not cline up to the beame, to unroose the
house

house, whereby we were forced to come downe quietly to bed, but the next day, and two or three nights together, having contrived to us a line, and a dark lantern, by a friend which was sent to us, which before we wanted, with certaine sticks, which we had priuily conueyed out of the kitchen Traine, we made us a ladder of ropes, with the helpe of which the Saturday night following, being the last of February, as before Six climbing by the beam, with my helpe fastened the ladder at staires, whereon I getting by into the high hall, got up to the beam, where being, we vntiled a hole in the toppe, which led into the leades, and the same rope which he had taken from the Pallace, we fastened to the Battlements, and so sliding downe into the parget yard, and there by means of a ladder, which by chance we found there, got into the streets, went downe Marticke lane, to Saint Giles, from thence into White Marke, where we lay in a hole, as a hoglie all Sunday, without any sustenance. On Sunday night, we were directed by a letter sent, vnto me, whilst I was in prison, if we escape, to come into a gentlemans Chamber in the Temple, which we should know by a light burning in the window, and by the same letter, we were directed the way, which candle burnt there three nights a fore, and should haue done three nights longer, if we had not come, to which place we went on Sunday night, and there with others plotted to robbe a worshipfull gentleman at Layton on Monday night, but toke water at the Temple staires, and landed at Saint Batters, where we spent our time, till the night following, and then with some foure or five more effected this Robberie, and repaired againe to the Temple, where, by what meanes, we were betrayed and taken, God knoweth best, for we doe not, but I doe applie it the worke of God to clære a great many, which were most vniustly accused,

The Arraignment and execution

for consenting to our escape, of whom I bore aske pardon, there we were taken the Thursday night after our escape, and from thence brought bound to Newgate, where we remained till the day of our execution.

On Friday morning, being the thirteenth of this in-
stant moneth of March, I was sent for to Sir Henry
Mountegues in Aldersgate street, where being ex-
amined of some payntes concerning the Robbery done
at Layton, after a long & zealous exhortation made
unto me to forget the world, & all hope of life, & to spend
that little time I had to live, in prayer. For you are (quoth
he) appointed to morrow with your companion Sly, to
pay for your lives to the law, which so many waies you
have offended, and so sent me backe againe to prison
gate, where all that after none, I spent my time with
in prayer, being still frequented with others good & good
men, who laboured zealously for the good of my soule,
and who I hope can tell to the world, that I did
a true penitent & servant of God. God so, he might
grant unto all other offenders the like obtained convicti-
on, and true feeling of his benefits, and unto me the
everlasting, Amen.

On Saturday morning was two gibbets set up, one within the gate, nere warricke lane end, whereon was hanged Charles Courtney gentleman, & one other without the gate at the olde Bailey end, where on was hanged Clement Shie a fencer, for killing a fencer, nere about Kentish towne. The body of Charles Courtney, was begd by the Barber Surgeons, for an anatomie. The body of Clement Shie was buried in Ch:ls Church, in Christian Burial.

Courtneis repentance.

THe silent night that shadoweth every tree,
And Phœbus in the West was shrowd a low,
Each beeh had home her busie labouring Bee,
And Birds their nightly harbour gan to know,
And all things did from weary labour sinne,
And I began to weigh my state and sinne.

Men worne with worke, betooke them to their rest,
The Sunne had left to shew his glorious beames,
Titan had fully bid him in the West,
To coole the fetlockes of his weary teames,
When sunke with sorrow being captiue,
I shed forth teares lamenting much my state.

My head on hand, my elbow on my knee,
And teares did trickle downe my countenance,
My countenance as sad, as mans might be,
My dumps besitting well a Captiue man,
Fettered in prison, passionate alone,
My sighes wrought teares, and thus I gan to mone.

I that of late did liue a souldiers life,
And spent my seruise in my Countries good,
Now captiue lie, where nought but cares are rise,
Where is no hope, but losse of dearest blood,
This is befallen me, cause I did mis-spene,
That time which God to better use did lend.

Had I but stopt my eares where Syren sung,
And bound my selfe unto my lifes mast,
Or had I thought, alas I am but young,
Too much tis all to venture on a cast,
I might haue liued from all dangers free,
Where now I die, for life is not for me.

But

Courtneis repentance.

But I doe follow what I knew was vaine,
Instead of vertue, I did vice embrace,
My former pleasures now procure my paine,
And cause I lackt one sparke of timely grace,
The poisoned Aconite of death and woe,
Resolues to send a fatall overthrowe.

This makes my eyes to gush out floods of teares,
My flesh to melt, my eyes and arteries rend
My soule to seeke redresse, to cure her feares,
For now my cause cannot afford one friend,
I that of late did number many a friend,
Now find them fled, and no man comfort lende.

The Leaselesse tree, with wrath of winters wind,
Best represents my wretched wasting state,
Fortune the wind, she leaues my friends I find,
My selfe the tree, that thus am crost by fate,
And yet in this we greatly differ may,
That it reniues and I still pine away.

Villaines anaunt, you bastards are by kind,
That doe perturb the countries quiet state,
Shame to offend, shun a corrupted minde,
And learne by me, your former lines to hate,
Liue of your owne, and braue it not with brag,
Least law condemne you in your proudest rags.

Drinke not the Haruest of your neighbours sweat,
Steale not at all, thy God doth thee commaund
Whose law to keepe your soueraigne doth intreate,
Thy health it is Gods lawe to vnderstand,
Obeying God, God shall all harmes preuent,
Keeping Kings peace, thy King is well content.

Courtneis repentance.

Like to the Wolfe in every place you range,
Preying on lambe, that neuer went astray,
And like Camelions must your suits be strange,
Who doth by kind change Colours every day,
Without respect, forgetting what you be,
Masking in sinne, as if God could not see.

Abate presumption, sinne is not a Iest,
Though God forbear, yet he will strike at length,
God made thee man, make not thy selfe a beast,
But seeke to loue thy God, with soule and strength,
Ill gotte, Ill spent, your hopes (in theft) pretended,
Are grieve and shame, and life in sorrowes ended.

Might sorrowing sobs, with teares redeeme whats past
Or floods of teares suffice for foredone ill,
Behold my lookes with discontent ore-cast,
Whose heart doth rend, whose eies fresh fountaines still,
And yet all this, and all that I can doe,
Is small to that which I haue neede to doe.

My soule shall mourne for all my ill done deedes,
And I will weepe, sole author of soules woe,
Repentance shall be my blacke mourning weedes,
Ile bath my selfe in teares, from top to toe,
And while life lasts, which cannot now be long,
Grant mercie Lord, this shall be all my song.

My heart through flesh shall issue sweating grieffe,
And scald my bones with salt and brinish teares,
Through flesh and bone, my heart shall begger reliefe,
On bended knees till bone my flesh out-weares,
All that I am Ile spend in mourne for sinne,
And where I end, afresh I will beginne.

Courtneis Repentance.

If Mandalins teares did euer Christ's foete wet,
And sweete her soule with true repentant teares,
If Peters mourning streames did mercy get
For all his sinnes, though he his Christ forswears,
My sad laments abounding from my eyes,
Sweete God accept, and heare my mournefull cries.

A wounded soule a broken contrite heart,
Creepes in great st throng, thy mercies throne to touch,
The oyle of life, King of my life impart,
Though sinne be great, thy mercy's thrice as much,
Oh thou that art in power and mercy great,
Send downe thy mercy from thy mercies seat.

My coloured suits I now exchange for blacke,
Till scarlet sinne be all as white as snow,
On me sweete time shall neuer turne his backe,
Nor shall his taske be more, my tares to mow,
But with repentance furrow hopes forlorne,
Till God giue grace, I seeke a better Corne.

This little remnant of my life so poore,
Ile teach to shun all sinne and vices all,
Giuer of all grace, grant grace I sinne no more,
Establisth me that I may neuer fall,
To thee my heart, my soule and life I giue,
V. ho after death eternally may liue.

Direct my path euē for thy mercies sake,
Gulde thou my steppes to keepe repentant waies,
Keepe me from sleepe, in thee sit let me wake,
To laud thy name during these earthly daies,
And when from earth I shall dissolve to dust,
Grant that my soule may liue among the iust.

FINIS. Ch. Courtney.



